

January 31, 2024

Electronic Submission

Honorable Alfonso H. Lopez, Chair, and
Members, Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources,
House of Delegates, Commonwealth of Virginia

**In re: Public testimony in support of H. 316, relating to: establishing the
Virginia Recycling Development Center.**

Dear Chair and Members,

The American Chemistry Council (ACC), acting on behalf of its Plastics Division, appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments in support of H. 316 that would establish the Virginia Recycling Development Center (Center).

ACC and our members are deeply committed to creating a more circular economy for plastics and helping prevent used plastic in the environment. That is why ACC and our Plastics Division members were among the first to establish ambitious, forward-thinking goals that all plastic packaging in the United States is reused, recycled, or recovered by 2040 and that all U.S. plastic packaging is recyclable or recoverable by 2030.¹

Achieving these goals will require industry, manufacturers, brands and retailers, recyclers, and waste haulers, as well as citizens, communities, non-profits, academics, and federal, state, and local governments, to come together to support policies and programs to increase the supply of and demand for recycled materials and create the circular economy we all want.

Under this legislation, the Center would focus on increasing end markets for recycled content through applied research and development, marketing, and policy analysis. The Center would be the Commonwealth's focal point for producers, recovery facilities, packaging manufacturers, retailers, local governments, environmental organizations, higher education, and in-state agencies.

This proposal acknowledges that recycling is not just an activity designed to improve the environment, but also a part of the economic system. The Center's activities aim to enhance the supply of material so that it is of sufficient quality and quantity to be of value to end markets and increase the demand for the material and goods made from recycled content. These important features of the Center will help Virginia transition from a linear economy to a circular economy.

Again, ACC urges the committee to support this legislation.

¹ "U.S. Plastics Resin Producers Set Circular Economy Goals to Recycle or Recover 100% of Plastic Packaging by 2040," Media release (American Chemistry Council, May 9, 2018), <https://www.americanchemistry.com/chemistry-in-america/news-trends/press-release/2018/us-plastics-resin-producers-set-circular-economy-goals-to-recycle-or-recover-100-of-plastic-packaging-by-2040>.



Thank you for this opportunity to provide information to the committee. If you have any questions or if we may be of further service, please feel free to contact Josh Young, ACC's Senior Director, Mid-Atlantic Region at + 1 (202) 249-6223

Josh.Young@AmericanChemistry.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS Peer', written in a cursive style.

Adam S. Peer, Senior Director
American Chemistry Council